

THE SIGNAL



Newsletter of the Bella Vista area Radio Club ARKANSAS' LARGEST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

- October Program –
POTA Show & Tell
- 2025 BVRC Technician Class Graduates
- 2026 BVRC General Class Forming!
- 2025 BVRC Santa Net Getting Close!
- BVRC Community Outreach Team
At Preparedness Fair
- ADXA Conference Coming to ALETA!
- Experimenter's Corner –
Improved 20m Vertical Roof Mount
- New ARRL Awards
- DXCC Den – Navassa Island



November 2025

Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m.
Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA)
3424 S. Downum Road, Springdale AR
(HAM 101 Workshop for Newcomers @ 6pm preceding meeting)

Club Calls: N5BVA / W5NX
(Repeater Nets) (Contesting & Special Events)

BVRC Twin Linked Repeaters:

Bella Vista: 147.255 +600 khz offset, pl 162.2

Springdale: 444.100 + 5 MHz offset, pl 162.2

Website: www.bellavistaradioclub.org

WEEKLY NETS:

BVRC HAM 101 Net
Mondays @ 7 pm on the
WX5NAS Skywarn Link System:

Bentonville - 146.865, -offset, pl 103.5
Springdale - 147.315, +offset, pl 97.4
Fayetteville - 147.315, +offset, pl 110.9
Huntsville - 443.625, +5 MHz, pl 97.4
Green Forest - 145.310, -offset, pl 103.5

BVRC Legacy Net
Wednesdays @ 7 pm on the
BVRC Dual Linked Repeaters:

N5BVA/Bella Vista
147.255, +offset, pl 162.2

N5BVA/Springdale
444.100, +5 MHz, pl 162.2

BVRC 3830 Roundtable
Sunday Afternoons
4 pm during CST
4:30 pm during CDT
3.830 MHz



NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 @ 7PM
ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY
3424 S. DOWNUM ROAD
SPRINGDALE, AR

November Meeting Information

HAM 101 Workshop, 6pm preceding monthly meeting – A treat is in store for our newcomers to the club and hobby for the November Workshop, with a very interesting presentation on amateur radio satellites. BVRC's foremost authority on this aspect of the hobby and instructor for this month's workshop will be Murray Harris – W5XH, as he presents "Working the Birds". Don't miss out on this unique and fascinating topic!

BVRC October meeting, 7pm – We are super excited to welcome back BVRC's Technical Officer, Tem Moore – N5KWL, to the podium for what will be an excellent VHF/UHF based program. Tem's presentation will be "Digital Repeaters". This program will be jam packed with important information on how digital repeaters work and how to operate through them. Over the past several years, digital communication on VHF and UHF has erupted into a huge use following. If you are familiar with analog repeaters but have not yet gained knowledge on the digital side of repeater operation, this program is for you!

SEE YOU THEN!

BOARD MEMBERS



President

Jan Hagan - WB5JAN

wb5jan@arrl.net

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Joe Hott - W5AEN

joe.hott@gmail.com

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Dana Hill - W5DGH

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N5BVA Trustee

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Member At Large & Public Information Officer

Tom Northfell - W5XNA

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Nets Committee

Chair: Dana Widboom - KI5TGY

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Membership Committee

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Social Media & Community Outreach Committee

Chair: Alex Smith - KI5EQK

ki5eqk@gmail.com

W5NX Trustee

Jay Bromley - W5JAY

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Webmaster

Roger Dickey - KJ4QIS

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VE Testing Committee

Chair: Don Banta - K5DB

arsk5db@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Don Banta - K5DB

arsk5db@gmail.com



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

What Does the New W5NX Club Station Mean for BVRC?

Over the past two years you have heard me give updates on the efforts of the BVRC Club Station Task Force to secure a club station for our members. The process has been long with more than a few sidetracks, but through the perseverance of the Task Force and so many members who have volunteered their time, expertise and support, we are nearing the finish line for a wonderful club station at our ALETA meeting location.

So now that the club station is nearly a reality, what is the vision for our club station and how can it benefit our membership whose experience levels in the hobby vary widely? A valid question and one that the Task Force has focused on from the beginning.

☀ The W5NX station will serve as a valuable education and training tool to teach radio operations, procedures and etiquette to our members wanting to learn more about HF station operations. We foresee formal training sessions, classes and demonstrations using club station equipment.

☀ Our club station will serve as a radio shack for use by trained and qualified members with or without a home station who want to sign up to use the club station with the support of Elmer volunteers who will be present to provide stewardship of station operations. Many members have home situations that don't allow for the installation of antenna systems and/or don't have room for a home radio shack. The station will allow access to a fully operational station that is not possible at home.

☀ The W5NX station will provide a home for unique club operations such as Special Event Stations and Club Contest operations. The station will also be a home base for emergency operations to assist with communications as needed in disaster situations should they occur in Northwest Arkansas and surrounding areas.

Much like your radio shack at home, the W5NX club station will continue to evolve after it begins initial operations. Starting from a station capable of phone, CW, and digital operations with a rotatable beam for the upper HF frequencies, future plans under consideration include making the station remote access capable, allowing trained members to operate the station remotely. Also, under consideration is adding VHF, UHF capabilities to teach net operations for potential emergency communications. Finally, higher watt amplifier operations for trained and qualified members will also be a consideration.



So, what will our W5NX club station bring to our members?

The vision is that it will serve as a valuable resource to all our members no matter where they are along their amateur radio journey.

73!

Jan, WB5JAN

October Program Features Excellent POTA Presentation



It was another packed house for the BVRC October 2025 meeting, as BVRC members Allen Risler-KE5FAR from Harrison and Mike Calvi-KF5RUO from Bentonville tag-teamed an outstanding presentation on “POTA Show and Tell”.



The Parks On The Air program has garnered a huge international following in the past 10 years, and BVRC has presented several programs from our members in the past several years due to the program's popularity and following. Tonight's program was no exception and was excellent.

Mike and Allen have become well versed in their POTA park activations and shared many highlights of their activation experiences, along with some tips on how to conduct a successful activation: Antennas, nifty POTA station configurations and antennas, interacting (at times) with park officials and the public, and the outstanding results from their activations.

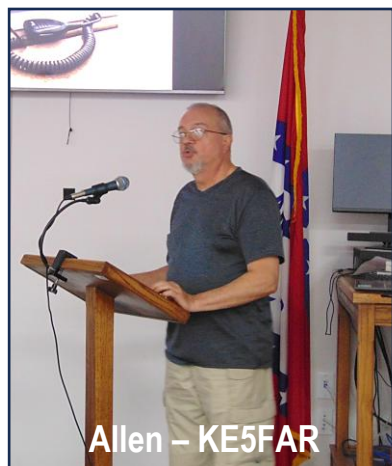
Besides of course working stateside stations, Mike has worked several continents in his activations.....usually *with only around 5 watts!* Mike's employment takes him all over the U.S. and when the opportunity arises, he has his trusty “mini POTA pack station” with him to activate nearby POTA parks.

Thus far, he has been able to activate parks in California, Nevada, Kansas, Virginia, and others including – of course – Arkansas.



Mike – KF5RUO

Being a former graduate of one of BVRC's CW Academy classes has also enabled Mike to enjoy making CW during his POTA adventures, in addition to his phone operations. Mike has not only enjoyed the excitement of activating POTA parks all over the country, it has afforded him the opportunity of seeing some beautiful locales, and also at times taking his XYL with him and making a family day of the outing.



Allen then took to the podium with some excellent information of different antennas for POTA activations. Allen also brought with him a homemade portable 40-meter rotatable dipole that he has had good results with. Allen said that for him personally, one of the 'side features' he really enjoys from POTA operating is exchanging QSL cards with some of the people he has worked. He shared some photos of some of these cards, which was really interesting.

Allen also shared a phenomenon of POTA operation that can definitely add fun to an activation – multiple parks. Allen said if you do your homework before embarking on a POTA activation, you can discover where some park boundaries overlap, thus giving you the opportunity to activate two, three, and sometimes even four park simultaneously in a single activation. Allen said when you're able to do this, the pileups of other stations calling get large in a hurry and adds to the excitement.

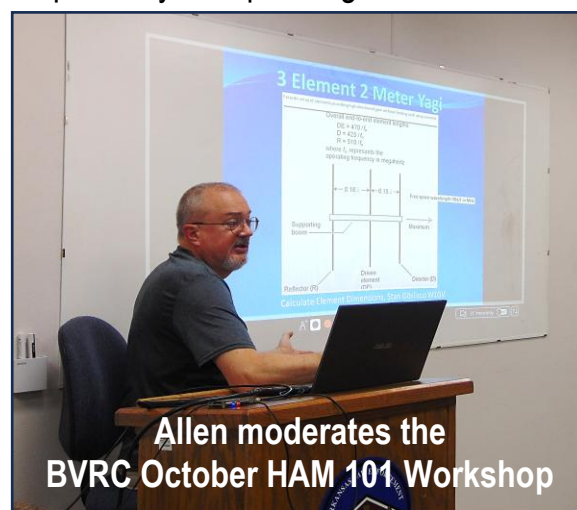
Speaking of pre-activation homework, Allen recommended using the Arkansas Topographic Map book, which has become one of his mainstays in preparing for a POTA activation. Allen said the map book was recommended to him by another avid BVRC POTA enthusiast, Robert-K5NZV, and he was very appreciative of Robert introducing this tool to him.

In closing, Allen shared he was inspired by BVRC President Jan-WB5JAN's presidents column in the recent issue of The Signal, where Jan related in previous years when he resided in southern California, how went to some of the peaks and made fairly long-distance VHF/UHF contacts. Allen said Jan has gotten him excited to do that also. He said in his short-term POTA plans, he will be traveling to Mount Magazine to activate that park and hopefully make some interesting QSOs on 2-meter and 70-centimeter simplex.

Allen also said the reasons he enjoys POTA activations are: 1) They're fun! It invigorates the hobby. Working pileups is a blast! 2) Activating can make you INSTANTLY popular. 3) It is efficient. You can transition from home to mobile to portable operations easily when you have the right rig(s) and antenna(s) and learn the ropes a little. 4) POTA operation helps you personally prepare and improves your operating skills for disaster communications.

While being with us for the October meeting and after the long drive from Harrison, Allen was also our moderator/instructor for the October HAM 101 Workshop. Allen's topic was "Experimenting with HF Antennas", in which he brought with him some interesting antenna models (one made out of aluminum tape!), and data results on the different antennas he has researched and used. It was a very informative session!

Our thanks to Allen and Mike for a great October meeting!!!!



2025 BVRC Technician License Class Once Again, A Success!

BVRC's 2025 Technician License Class was held September 13 and 20 at the ALETA complex in Springdale. The class instructor was BVRC's past president and current membership director Tom Northfell – W5XNA.

There were 5 attendees for the class. A special VE exam session was held for the class at the conclusion of the September 20 session, and all five passed.

Kudos to instructor Tom for a job – once again – well done and.....

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW TECHNICIAN GRADUATING CLASS!



From left to right: Austin Moreton-KF0VHR, Russell Moreton-KF0VHU, Drake Rush-KJ5MXM, Janelle Smiley-KJ5MXL, and instructor Tom Northfell-W5XNA

BVRC GENERAL LICENSE CLASS STARTING SOON SIGN-UP TODAY!



Bella Vista area Radio Club is pleased to announce the Winter 2025 General amateur radio license classes! **Enrollment is open and ongoing!**

GENERAL License Class

If you recently passed your Technician exam and wish to upgrade, this class is for you!

Note: You must already hold a current and valid Technician Class amateur radio license to enroll in this class.

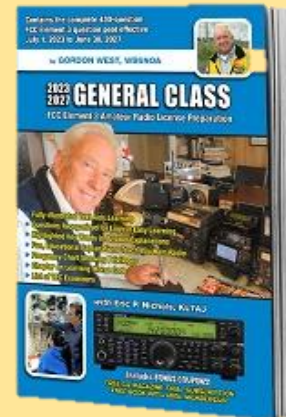
CLASS DATES: Saturday, January 3 and Saturday, January 10, 2025

CLASS LOCATION:

Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA)
3424 S. Downum Road
Springdale, AR 72762

CLASS SCHEDULE:

2 classes on 2 Saturdays:
9:00am – 12:00pm, Morning Session
12:00pm – 12:30pm, Lunch Break
12:30pm – 4:30pm, Afternoon Session



COST: The class is free, but you will need the accompanying license manual. (Normally \$32.95)

You can order from: [ARRL](https://www.arrl.org) or [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

(Have your manual in hand no later than one week from the first class.)

TESTING: A special General exam test session will be given at the end of the January 10 class.

INSTRUCTOR: BVRC Team Leadership

ENROLLMENT: The enrollment period of this class is now open!

**TO ENROLL OR
FOR ANY QUESTIONS
Contact Stephen Ponder – N5ZE at:
stponder@gmail.com**

Announcing the BVRC Santa Net!



The Bella Vista Radio Club is pleased to announce our club's next big operating event – The Santa Net! Coming this December – BVRC's N5BVA Santa Net will be on the air!

Yes, BVRC is developing and sponsoring an opportunity for all children in the Bella Vista area Radio Club's footprint to have a real-time QSO with Santa Claus this Christmas season.

The net will run on Friday, December 5, and again the following Friday, December 12.

The Santa Net will be a special net in that there will be no on-air check-ins. Instead, to take part in the net with your young children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., check-ins for the net will be by registration. All you need do is simply complete the Santa Net registration form on the BVRC website. Persons registering will choose which date and time slot they can be on frequency to check-in to speak to Santa. The NCS will use the registered slots as a net check-in list. *Be sure and be on frequency that evening.* The Net Control Station will call you when it's your turn. This will not only enable your little ones to speak to Santa, it will also introduce them to ham radio! **THE NET WILL USE THE NW ARKANSAS SKYWARN LINKED REPEATER SYSTEM.**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN, SO SIGN-UP NOW! Click **here** to go to the BVRC homepage, then click this icon to register:

If you need more information, contact the Santa Net Coordinator, Dale-W5DSL at lidddale@gmail.com or phone 479-531-3600. **HO! HO! HO! – SEE YOU THEN!**

**BVRC VE REPORT
FROM DON BANTA – K5DB
BVRC VE COORDINATOR
OCTOBER 2025**



Congratulations!

**Daniel Hayes – KJ5HCO
Farmington – New General!**

**David Lord – Call Pending
Tontitown – New Technician!**

Next month's exam sessions:

- **November 8, 10 am – Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale**
- **November 8, 2 pm – Bella Vista Public Library, 11 Dickens Place, Bella Vista**

**If you wish to test, you must register for an exam session.
To register, and for additional instructions,
go to the TESTING tab on the BVRC website:**

<https://bellavistaradioclub.org/testing/>



The BVRC W5NX Club Station task force has done a stellar job in expediting the construction on four different occasions since the last Signal issue.

After the base section of tower was secured in a concrete base and cured, the first two full sections of tower were erected making the tower tall enough to reach the tower bracket at the top of the ALETA building. The next phase involved the installation of the tower bracket. A horizontal aluminum plate was bolted to one of the I-beam ceiling trusses inside the building in the ALETA gymnasium. This plate extends through a slot in the building to the outside where it is attached to a vertical square plate with two angle pieces, all bolted together. The tower is then secured to the vertical plate with four U-bolts. This resulted in a very sturdy bracket to stabilize the bottom half of the tower to the ALETA building, thus eliminating the need for tower guy lines. The tower is Rohn 45-gauge, donated by Stan – K5GO. (A heartfelt thanks from the club, Stan!!!) A BIG “thanks” also goes to Brad Ponder – KJ5CWR for drilling the bracket securement bolt holes through the aluminum plate and steel ceiling truss. (Each hole took about 20-30 minutes!) Chuck-KM5G also performed the hard work of cutting the slot for the bracket and installing the first two full sections. THANKS Chuck!!!

The task force team returned the following week to install the remaining top sections of the tower. (By the way, each section of Rohn-45 weighs approximately 70 pounds. – Fairly hefty work to pulley each one up.)

Four days later the team returned for the third time since last printing. On this day, the thrust bearing and plate were installed at the tower top, along with the rotator plate and mast. The main antenna was then assembled. Also, some tweaking was done to the overall installation: Replacing the old tower leg bolts with new bolts, completion of weatherproofing the bracket, and finalizing installation of the vertical bracket plate to the tower with more robust U-bolts. Again, another BIG “thanks!” to Chuck-KM5G, Tem-N5KWA, and Kevin-N5DX for performing the hard work on the tower, along with the outstanding ground support crews.

(The task force team expedited the installation of the tower, mast, and antennas, before cold weather sets in, and the project proceeded superbly.)

The main antenna is a multi-band trapless beam constructed by Stan Stockton – K5GO, of which we offer another BIG “thanks!” for the hard work he has provided in building it. Stan has constructed many quality antennas in his amateur radio experience (and still does). This antenna will radiate a super signal. The antenna is made up of 11 elements and will be operative on 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters, with 2 elements on 20, 2 elements on 17, 3 elements on 15, and 4 elements on 10. This antenna is going to be an “eyecatcher”, with the 20-meter elements measuring 32 feet, tip to tip.

For 6 meters, Stan also constructed a 4-5 element beam which will sit 5 feet above the main beam at a 90° offset.

For the lower bands of 40- and possibly 80-meters, Stan said the current strategy is to shunt feed the tower starting at the ALETA rooftop. This will eliminate detuning interactions, and a wire antenna will not be needed for those bands. (This step will be done at a later date after the entire station is completed.)

The fourth session occurred on Saturday, Oct. 11 as the two antennas were raised without an issue. They really look super setting atop the Rohn-55 tower!!! A big highlight for the antenna portion of the club station will be a brand new Yaesu G-1000DXA rotator and Green Heron rotator control head! Yaesu rotators are of excellent quality, and this one will handle turning the antennas with no problem.

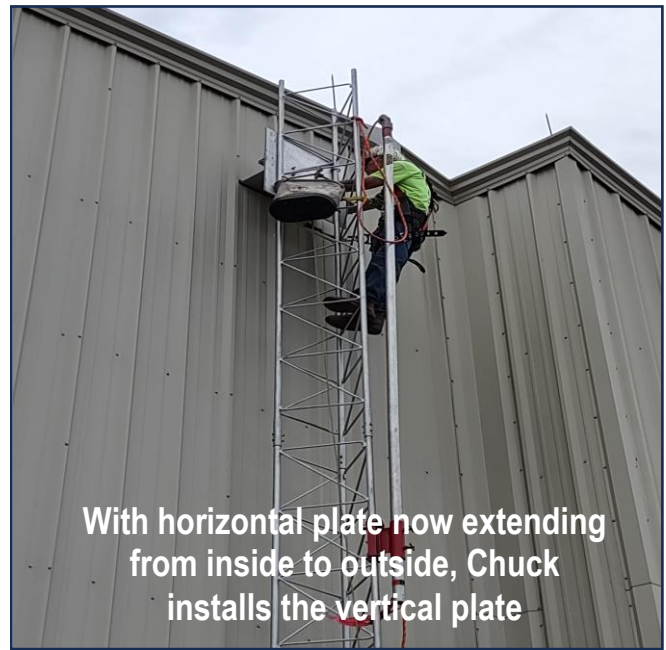
Next phase: Run coax and rotator cable feedlines and set up internal portion of the station.

As the BVRC club station continues to evolve, be sure and stay tuned!

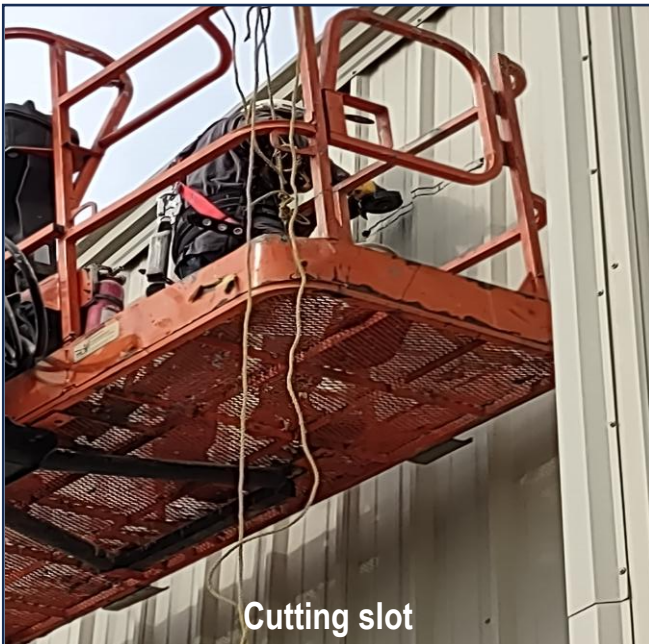
Station construction photos on the following pages (courtesy WB5JAN, W5XNA, & K5DB).



KM5G operates lift to cut slot for horizontal plate



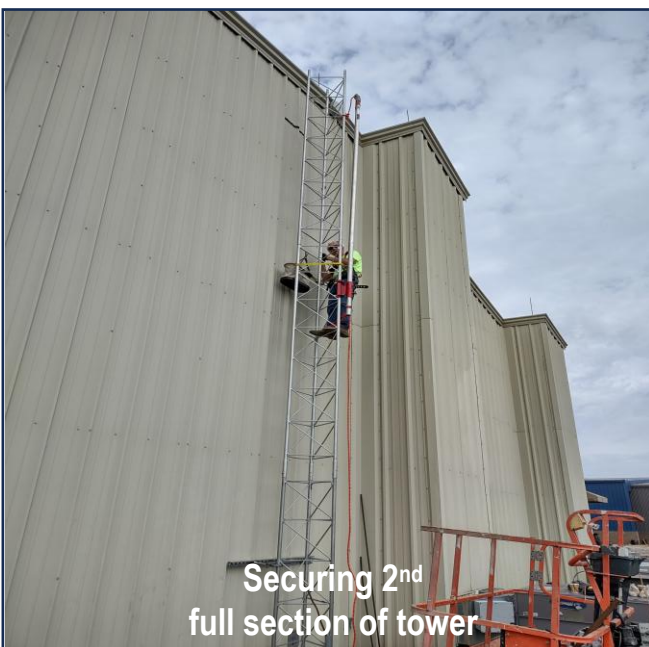
With horizontal plate now extending from inside to outside, Chuck installs the vertical plate



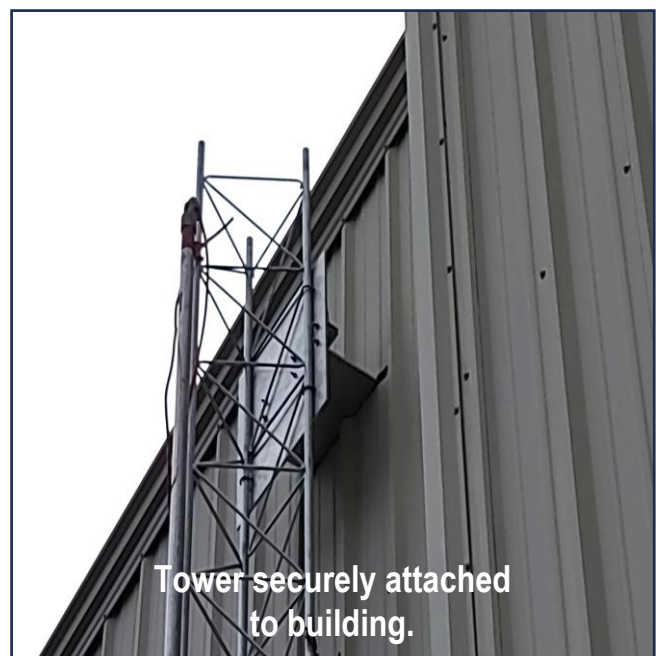
Cutting slot



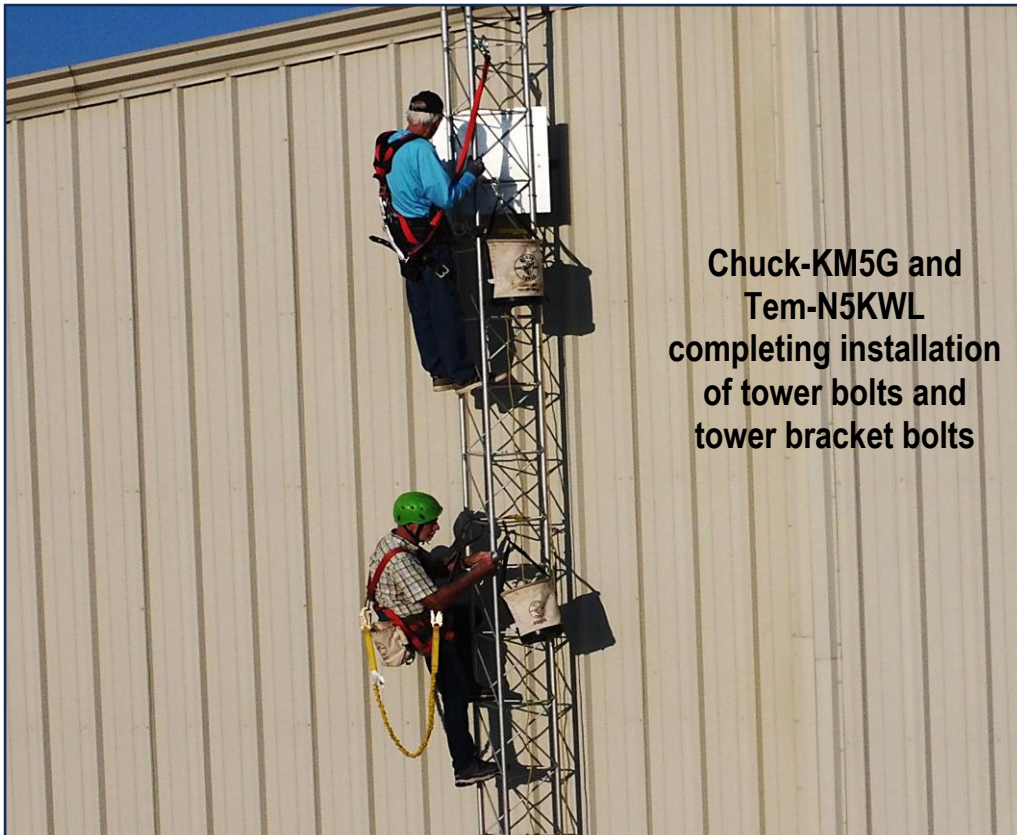
Brad-KJ5CWR & Chuck-KM5G on scissor lift inside of building with Brad drilling bolt holes to secure horizontal plate



Securing 2nd full section of tower



Tower securely attached to building.



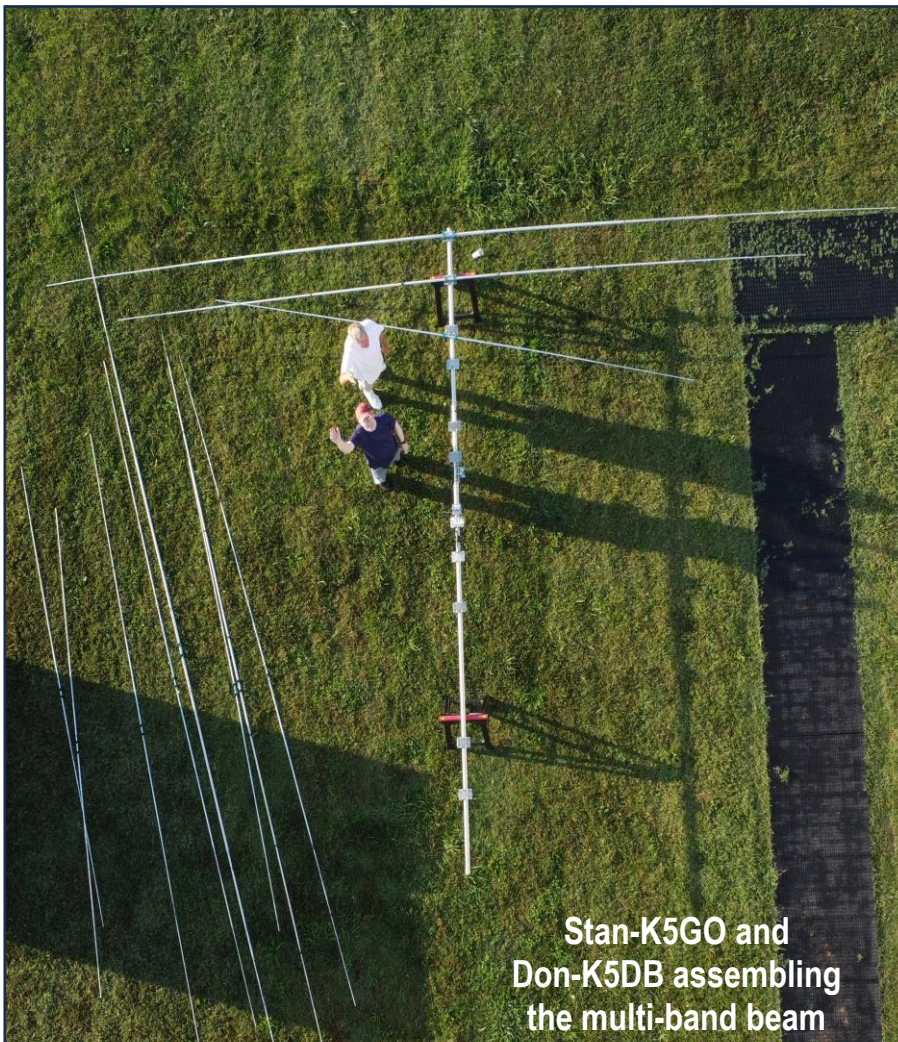
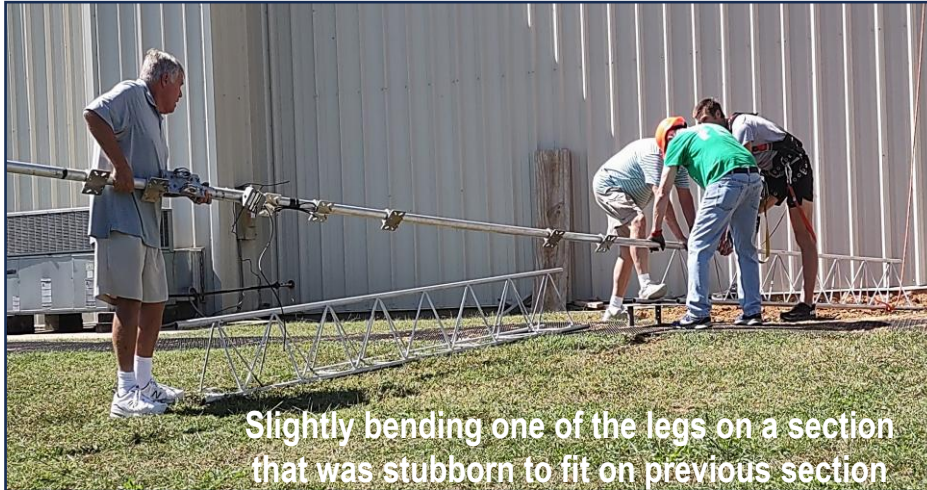
Chuck-KM5G and
Tem-N5KWL
completing installation
of tower bolts and
tower bracket bolts



Final section goes up



Kevin-N5DX secures
final section





Club Station Task Force members
at the fourth session antenna
raising.....

From left to right: Chuck-KM5G,
Tem-N5KWL, Dana-KI5TGY,
Murray-W5XH, Mark-K5XH,
Tom-W5XNA, Stan-K5GO and
Greg-K5GKH

The 11-element beam sojourns its way to the top



Stan-K5GO checks antenna's SWR on all bands

Installation of BVRC Club Station
W5NX HF and 6-Meter
antennas complete!!!!

Next phase: Grounding and
running antenna feedlines.



BVRC Community Outreach Team Makes Great Showing at Preparedness Fair

The Bella Vista Radio Club Public Service Communications Team represented the value of amateur radio with a table at the NWA Emergency Preparedness Fair in Centerton, Arkansas.

The fair was well attended. Over 100 individuals and families came to our table with an interest in what amateur radio was all about. We almost exhausted our supply of brochures! There was a great interest in our license classes and testing, our newest Saturday ladies and children net, and the value of amateur radio in emergency conditions. Even the mayor of Centerton, Bill Edwards-N5SG a BVRC member, came by and thanked us for the club's participation.

The event had a BINGO card with all the different table groups, including BVRC.



Volunteering at the table were Alex Smith-KI5EQK (BVRC Community Outreach Committee Chair), Tom Thibeault-KN4SLP, Drake Rush-KJ5MXM (a recent Tech and new member), and Tom Northfell-W5XNA.



One of the many families visits the BVRC booth



Two young gentlemen from the youth Civil Air Patrol visit the BVRC booth



Tom-KN4SLP, Drake-KJ5MXM, Alex-KI5EQK, and Tom-W5XNA

**Attention all BVRC DXer members!!!
Make plans to attend the**



2025 Annual Conference
Saturday, Nov. 8, 8 am – 4:45 pm
Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy
3424 South Downum Road
Springdale, AR

The preparations for the Arkansas DX Association (ADXA) have been completed for its outstanding annual conference held in November.

This year, the conference will be held Saturday, November 8, from 8:00 am – 4:45 pm, at BVRC's home at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy!

The ADXA rotates its annual conference meeting venue each year, and this year it will be held in NW Arkansas for the first time in about 5 years. It probably will be that long again before another conference is held in our area, so you don't want to miss this one.

This all day extravaganza will feature great speakers, a great luncheon, great door prizes, and great information on DX operation. You will gain knowledge that will help you in many aspects of the hobby, even if you're not that interested in DXing. All BVRC club members – Technicians, Generals, Advanced, Extras, and persons considering getting into amateur radio – can benefit from the stellar programs the annual conference provides from its top-notch speakers and guest speaker.

Hams from all over Arkansas will be attending this event, and you are invited as well! You do not have to be an ADXA member to attend. The registration fee is \$30.00 per person. The fee covers the cost of the luncheon which will be catered by Penguin Ed's in Fayetteville, as well as aiding ADXA in conducting the conference. Be assured you will get your money's worth with a great meal and excellent information from the speakers.

To register for the conference, click **HERE**.

(THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1!)

Many BVRC members are also ADXA members, and our club counts it a privilege to assist ADXA with the ALETA venue arrangements.



ADXA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Contester, Innovator,
& DXpeditioner Extraordinaire

Gregg Marco – W6IZT



Gregg has activated or operated from over 20 DXCC countries including 3D2Y (Rotuma Is.), VP6A (Pitcairn Is.), JWØA (Svalbard), K1N (Navassa Is.), HKØNA (Malpelo Is.), K5D (Desecheo Is.), and got so close to Bouvet Island he could see it and smell it, but the effort of that 2018 DXpedition had to be aborted. Gregg resides in Morganton, GA. See his QRZ page!

Gregg is one of the inventors of the Rig In Box (RIB) technology that has opened access to DX entities previously restricted. One of Gregg's presentations during the conference will be on

NexGenRiB2 and he will actually bring a RIB with him for us to see! Most recently he is leading the PJ6Y Saba Island youth led Dxpediton and "Young Hams-The Future of Dxpeditoning". You can see one of his recent interviews [here](#).

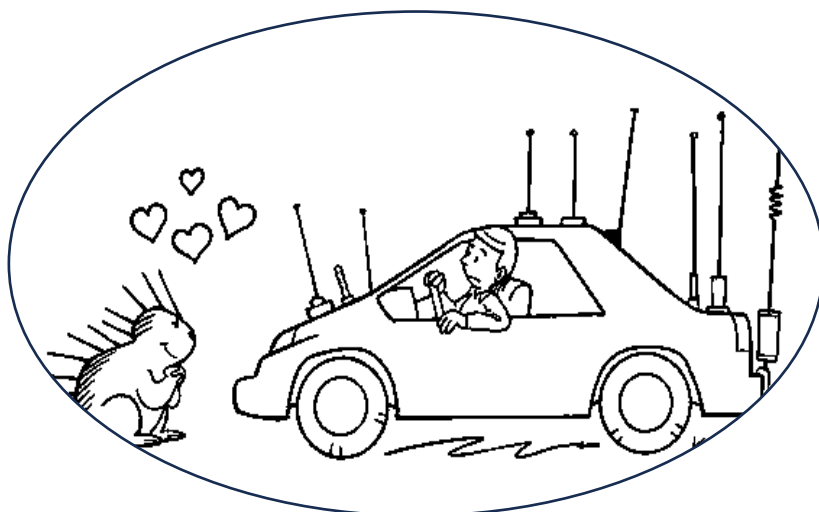
- Additional DX Topics & Speakers
- Noon Luncheon
- DXCC Card Checking
- ADXA Awards
- Door Prizes

**Registration is open
until November 1.
Register today!
CLICK [HERE](#)**



Rick Deaton – K5RRD – Pocola, OK

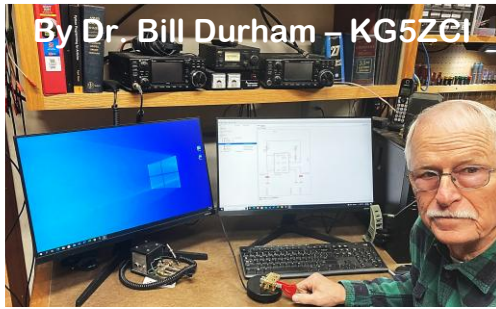
Russ Ogden – N7WR0 – Bella Vista



Porcupines love ham mobiles

EXPERIMENTER'S CORNER

By Dr. Bill Durham - KG5ZC1



This Month's Topic: **Improved Roof Mount** **for the** **20-meter, $\frac{1}{4}$ wave** **Vertical**

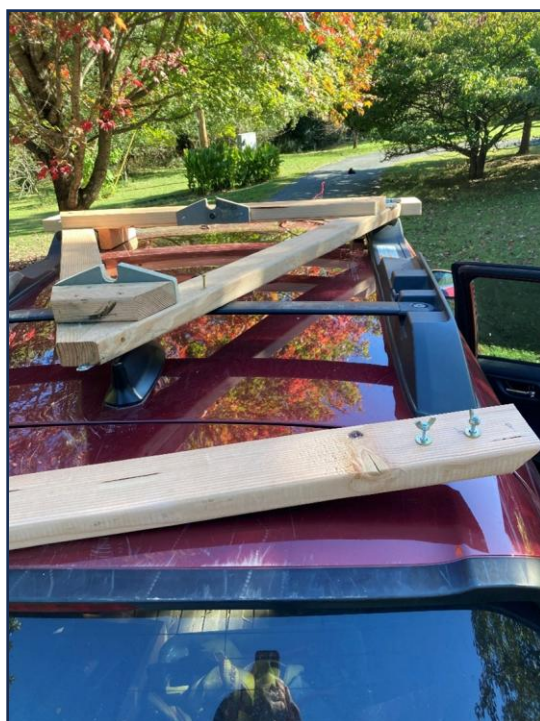
In the May issue of the Signal, I described the construction of a Quarter-Wave Vertical that could be tuned from 20 M down to 10 M. In the following issue, I described the first attempt at a car roof mount. The test results were good regarding signal but the mechanical stability was not very good. After several months of pondering, I present here a mechanically sound car roof mount that is strong and a good candidate for POTA applications. The antenna mounts to the roof rack in only a few minutes. I built it for my Subaru Outback, so the specifics of the construction will not transfer directly to other cars, but it should provide good food for thought for other vehicles. I also tried to restrict the construction to only readily available tools. It is made almost entirely of wood.



The mount consists of two parts, the first, which I will call the “A” is to be installed at home before taking the system on the road. It is easy to attach but is a bit too large to fit inside the car. The first photo shows the “A” in place on the car. It is firmly attached to the front luggage rack. The “A” is 45 inches tall and it is hinged to a 47 x 2 x 6 which spans the built-in car racks. The hinges were heavy duty gate hinges salvaged from a gate. The 2 x 6 is held firmly to the rack cross member with two radiator clamps. Note there are also two pieces of trimmed down 2 x 4’s about 12” long that fit snugly under the rack cross member. These pieces were glued and screwed to the 2 x 6 and they prevent the 2 x 6 from lifting up. Two 2 x 4’s span the “A”, one near the top and the another (clearly visible in the photo) close to the bottom. Glued and screwed for strength.

Obviously, the antenna is much too large to allow the vehicle to move with the antenna extended and so the design assumed that the antenna would be removable. The antenna itself is held in place with two pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ ” plywood with slots that are screwed and glued to the lower and upper cross members that make up the “A”. These are visible in the photos. Two pieces of Velcro keep the antenna in the slots and make placing (or removing the antenna) in the frame a very simple and quick operation. The Velcro also allows the antenna to slide up and down and sit on the 2 x 6.





The “A” holds the antenna firmly and prevents any side-to-side motion. A second 2 x 4 (removable) is hinged to the top of the “A” to hold the antenna upright, front to back. It is held with two $\frac{1}{4}$ ” carriage bolts and wingnuts. It was cut to carefully wedge against the rear cross member of the luggage rack with a small piece of thin plywood added to help keep everything in place. This 2 x4 has a very important secondary function. It provides a handle for raising and lowering the “A” once the antenna is attached. Addition of the antenna and raising and lowering can all be done easily by one person. The last photo shows the “A” folded down for travel.

See you next month with another installment of Experimenter’s Corner. 73! – Bill, KG5ZCI



From

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NEW DXCC TRIDENT AWARD

For BVRC DX enthusiasts, in case you haven't heard, the ARRL Radiosport Department announced last January the creation of the new ARRL DXCC Trident Award.

The award recognizes amateur radio operators who have confirmed two-way radio (QSLs) with 100 or more current DXCC Award Countries (entities) on all three modes – CW (Morse Code), Phone (Voice), and Digital (FT8, FT4, RTTY, PSK, etc.)

Once you've met the qualifying DXCC criteria through Logbook of The World (LoTW), you're eligible to order a handsome ARRL DXCC Trident plaque that proudly commemorates your achievement.

To be eligible for the DXCC Trident award, you must satisfy the award requirements:

- Confirm 100 or more current DXCC entities via LoTW on each of the three modes: CW, Phone, and Digital
- Have all qualifying contacts dated November 1, 1976, or later. That's when RTTY DXCC was introduced, just a year after SSB and CW DXCC was added
- Use LoTW to verify DXCC credits (*QSL cards are not accepted for this award*)
- Endorsement plates for 200 and 300 entities are also available to add to the award (Note: If one mode is below an endorsement level, you qualify only for the level achieved across all three modes. All 3 modes must reach the endorsement plateau.)

The DXCC Trident award plaque includes a handsome wooden plaque with a decorative metal plate affixed to its face. Endorsement plates (small bars with a self-adhesive backing) can be applied to the plaque when you qualify for an endorsement (sold separately).

Once you have verified your eligibility for the plaque and/or endorsements plates per the above requirements, download and complete the official [DXCC Item Order Form](#) (PDF) and submit it to the ARRL Awards Desk by mail, fax, or email.:

ARRL DXCC Desk, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 USA

Fax: 860-594-0346

Email: dxccadmin@arrl.org



NEW 10-BAND DXCC AWARD UPCOMING

ARRL President Rick Roderick – K5UR, presided over the second ARRL Board of Directors meeting on July 18-19, 2025, in Windsor, CT. The Programs and Services Committee and ARRL staff from the Radiosport Department, on the heels of creating the DXCC Trident Award in January, are moving ahead with the creation of another new DXCC award – 10-Band DXCC – which will recognize those who achieve DXCC on all bands from 6 meters to 160 meters (excluding 60 meters). Higher achievement endorsements can be earned at the 200, 300, and Honor Roll levels, like the DXCC Trident Award. The 10-band DXCC Award challenges participants to establish station capabilities and operator skills for dealing with myriad band conditions in pursuing DXCC across all bands.

Also from



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Sourced from the pages of QST, Hints & Hacks for the Radio Amateur first edition is full of tried-and-true tricks hams around the world use to ease their operating, improve their station ergonomics, and elevate their fun.

265 Ways to Improve Your Equipment and Operating!

The first edition of Hints & Hacks for the Radio Amateur gathers the best projects and problem-solving tips from 2017 to 2023. It's full of know-how from QST's readers, including:

Antenna Tips

Wilderness antenna

A handy tool for ground radials

A foldable wooden antenna support

Easy alpha loop remote tuning

Project and Maintenance Tips

LED light pipes

Magnetic parts keeper

Polarity protection

Mini ground plane for

solderless Breadboard HF circuits

Shack Tips

Weatherproofing a coaxial switch

Mount for radios with bottom-fire speakers

No fuss mic hook

A cordless headset and microphone

List price: \$22.95

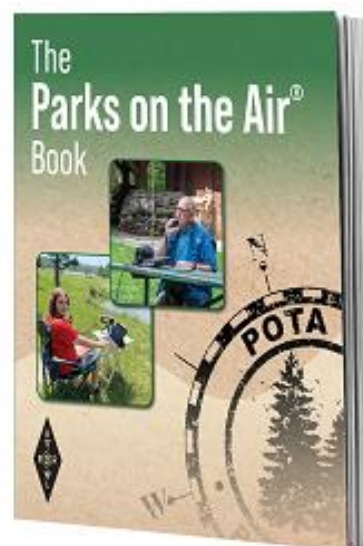
Member price: \$19.95

The Parks on the Air® Book explores the process of activating a park unit and hunting those activations. Through the experiences of 14 operators, it offers advice and motivation for taking your radio out to the park and becoming active in the growing POTA community.

Full-color format brimming with photos!

List price: \$22.95

Member price: \$19.95



BASEBALL AND HAM RADIO?!

The Signal now takes you to the confines of Fenway Park in Boston, MA, home of the Boston Red Sox. We draw your attention to the famous "Green Monster" left field wall and Fenway Park scoreboard:

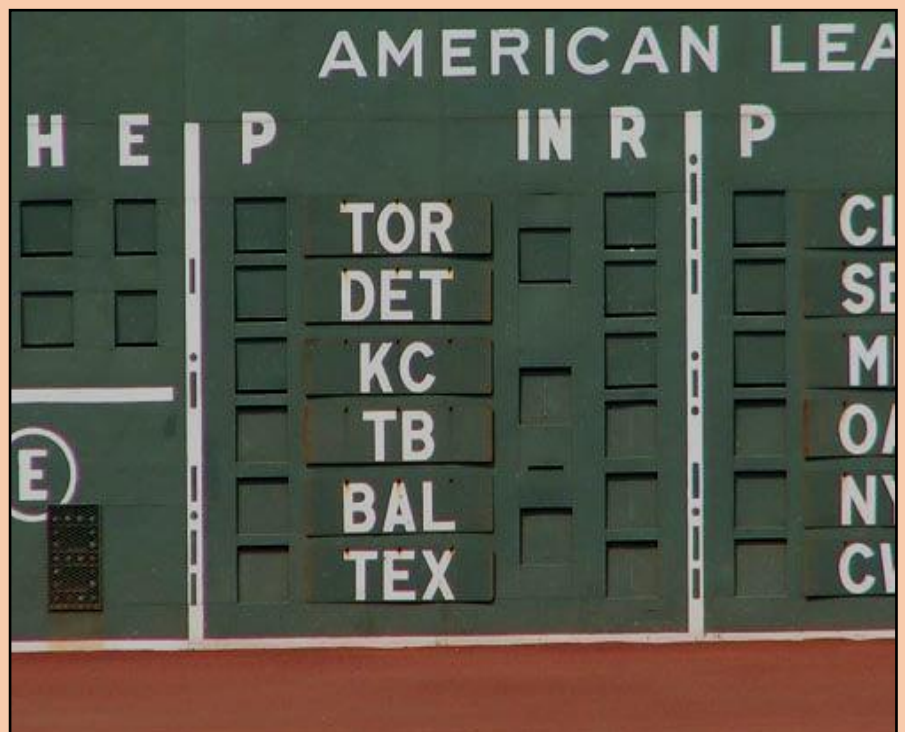


Most sports aficionados are very familiar with the left field wall known as The Green Monster - one of the famous landmarks in sports.

But ---- take a closer look at the scoreboard...

Notice the 2 white vertical lines - holy smoke, the scoreboard has **Morse code** on it!!!!

Reading from the top down, the left line reads "TAY" which stands for Thomas Austin Yawkey and the right line reads "JRY" which stands for Jean Remington Yawkey, former Red Sox team owners. How about that?





This month's featured country: Navassa Island



Primary Call Sign Prefix: KP1

Navassa Island is an uninhabited island in the Caribbean Sea. Navassa is located east of Jamaica, south of Cuba, and 46 mi west of Haiti. It is subject to an ongoing territorial dispute between Haiti and the United States, the latter of which administers the island through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The U.S. has claimed the island as an accessory or satellite island since 1857, based on the Guano Islands Act of 1856. Haiti's claim over Navassa goes back to the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697 that recognized French, rather than Spanish, control of the western part of the island of Hispaniola and other specifically named nearby islands. However, there was no mention of Navassa in the treaty detailing terms. Haiti's 1801 constitution claimed several nearby islands by name, among which Navassa was not listed, but also



Location of Navassa Island

Haiti protested United States annexation, but on July 7, 1858, U.S. President James Buchanan issued an Executive Order supporting the American claim, calling for military action to enforce it. Navassa Island has since been maintained by the United States as an unincorporated territory (according to the Insular Cases). The United States Supreme Court on November 24, 1890, in *Jones v. United States*, 137 U.S. 202, found that Navassa Island must be considered as appertaining to the United States, creating a legal history for the island under U.S. law, unlike many other islands initially claimed under the Guano Islands Act.

laid claim to "other adjacent islands", which Haiti maintains included Navassa. The U.S. claim to the island, first made in 1857, asserts that Navassa was not included among the unnamed "other adjacent islands" in the 1801 Haitian Constitution. Since the Haitian Constitution of 1874, Haiti has explicitly named "la Navase" as one of the territories it claims. It maintains that it has continuously been claimed as part of Haiti since 1801.



Guano phosphate is a superior organic fertilizer that became a mainstay of American agriculture in the mid-19th century. Mining began in 1865. The workers dug out the guano by dynamite and pickaxe and hauled it in rail cars to the landing point at Lulu Bay, where it was put into sacks and lowered onto boats for transfer to the Company cargo ship, the S.S. Romance.



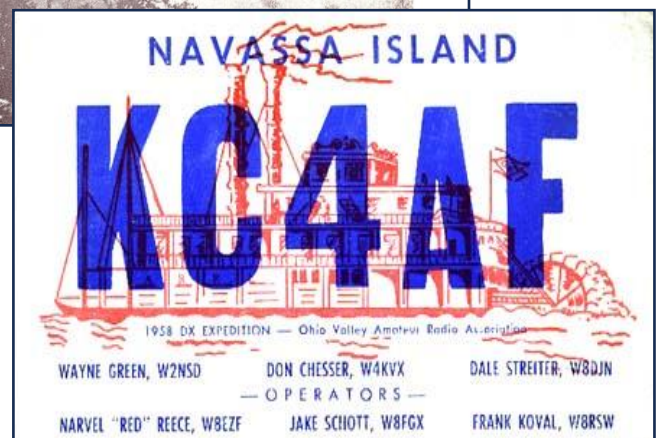
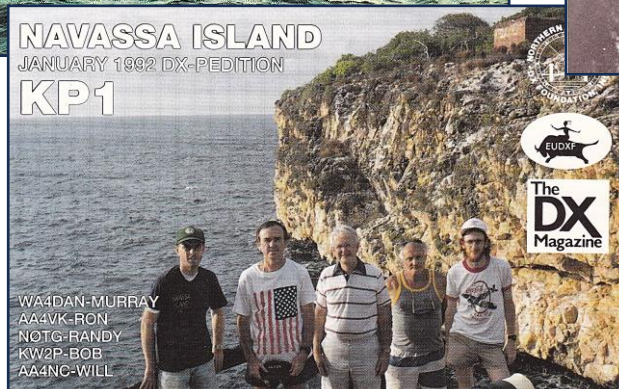
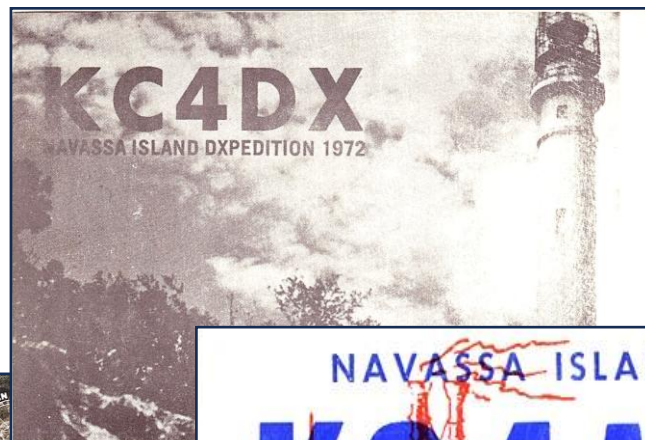
In 1905, the U.S. Lighthouse Service identified Navassa Island as a good location for a new lighthouse. However, plans for the light moved slowly. With the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, shipping between the American eastern seaboard and the Canal through the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti increased around Navassa, which proved a hazard to navigation. Congress appropriated \$125,000 in 1913 to build a lighthouse on Navassa, and in 1917 the Lighthouse Service built the 162-foot Navassa Island Light on the island, 395 feet above sea level.

In September 1999, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the Navassa Island National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses 1,344 acres of land and a 12 nautical mile radius of marine habitat around the island. Later that year, full administrative responsibility for Navassa was transferred from the Office of Insular Affairs to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This National Wildlife Refuge protects coral reef ecosystems, native wildlife, and plants and provides opportunities for scientific research on and around Navassa Island. Navassa Island features large seabird colonies, including over 5,000 nesting red-footed booby. Navassa is home to four endemic lizard species.

Navassa Island NWR is administered as part of the Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Due to hazardous coastal conditions and to preserve species habitat, the refuge is closed to the general public, and visitors need permission from the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter its territorial waters or land.

So, as we have seen in earlier DXCC Den articles, Navassa is another restricted area that is very difficult for amateur radio operators to access. Prior to the 1999 acquisition of the USFWS's administration, Navassa was activated quite often:



The last DXpedition to Navassa in the 20th century was in 1993. For the next 22 years no amateur radio operation was allowed. But, after several years of dialog with the government agency, access was finally granted to a group of fifteen U.S. amateur operators in 2014 for an operation scheduled for the early part of 2015. The official call sign prefix for Navassa is KP1, but the group decided on the special event callsign K1N. (DXpedition logo at right.)

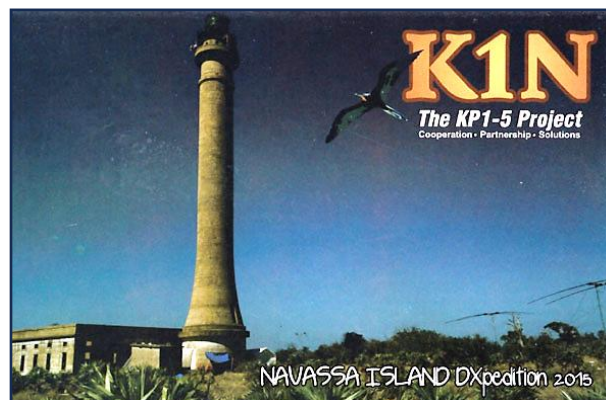


The team's goal, of course, was to activate the rare DXCC entity, Navassa Island (KP1), which at that time had become the #2 on Club Log's Most Wanted List due to its remote location and restricted access. (#1 was, and still is, North Korea.) Their biggest desire was to provide an ATNO (All Time New One) to as many hams that had never worked the entity up to that time. The team operated from February 1-15, logging 138,409 contacts.

Of course, the 2015 K1N DXpedition dropped Navassa considerably on the list, but as the past 10 years have gone by, it has steadily risen back into the Top 50 most wanted entities, currently at #34.

So, if you have not worked this extremely rare DX entity or need it for additional credit on other bands, hopefully it will not be almost a quarter century before another DXpedition group persuades the USFWS to allow them to operate from there again. In the meantime, keep an eye on the DX websites and outlets for when another Navassa DXpedition will be in the works. I guarantee you if a new DXpedition gets scheduled, you'll know about it!

In closing for this month, if you want to see an excellent video that was made about the K1N DXpedition that lasts around 45-50 minutes, you can find it on YouTube clicking [HERE](#). This is an excellent video that will gain your respect of radio amateurs who put an operation together like Navassa. You will see the enormous logistics that go into operations such as this, as well as the "hell on earth" that the operators have to endure at times. Enjoy!



My K1N QSL from 2015

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